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Date of signature and deposit - March 30, 2004

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: STEFFENS et al.	)	Group Art Unit:
Serial No.: 10/768,369	)	Examiner:
Filed: January 30, 2004	) )	Attorney Docket: 24048
For: PROPANE TANK VENDING MACHINE	)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

## Honorable Sir:

Pursuant to Sections 1.97 and 1.98 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, record is hereby made of published prior art which the United States Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider during examination of the above-entitled application. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search was conducted, or that no better art than that listed is available.

## U.S. Patent Documents - No., Date, Name

1,530,288 Mar. 17, 1925 Balkema 4,391,388 Jul. 5, 1983 Krakauer 4,498,603 Feb. 12, 1985 Wittenborg 4,778,042 Oct. 18, 1988 Warren et al.

#### U.S. Patent Documents - No., Date, Name 4,842,161 Jun. 27, 1989 Krakauer 5,176,285 Jan. 5, 1993 Shaw 5,253,782 Oct. 19, 1993 Gates et al. 5,313,393 May 17, 1994 Varley et al. 5,586,665 Dec. 24, 1996 Brousseau 5,829,630 Nov. 3, 1998 Fernald 6,206,237 Mar. 27, 2001 Dillon et al.

## Foreign Patent Documents - No., Date, Country

Oct. 22, 2002 Castleberry

None

6,467,603

## Publications - Author, Title, Date, Pages, Place

None

The relevance of the U.S. Patent Nos. 1,530,288 and 4,778,042 is discussed in Applicants' specification at page 1. The relevance of the U.S. Patent No. 5,829,630 is discussed in Applicants' specification at page 2. The remaining references relate in general to vending and dispensing machines.

A Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith. It is requested that each of the references be fully considered and made of record in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

ATTY. DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO.

24048 10/768,369

APPLICANT

Steffens et al.

FILING DATE

GROUP

January 30, 2004

#### **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** EXAMINER DOCUMENT DATE NAME **CLASS** SUBCLASS FILING DATE INITIAL NUMBER IF APPROPRIATE 1,530,288 03/17/1925 Balkema 4,391,388 07/05/1983 Krakauer 4,498,603 02/12/1985 Wittenborg 4,778,042 10/18/1988 Warren et al. 4,842,161 07/27/1989 Krakauer 5,176,285 01/05/1993 Shaw 5,253,782 10/19/1993 Gates et al. 5,313,393 05/17/1994 Varley et al. 5,586,665 12/24/1996 Brousseau 5,829,630 11/03/1998 Fernald 6,206,237 03/27/2001 Dillon et al. 6,467,603 10/22/2002 Castleberry FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS DATE **EXAMINER** DOCUMENT COUNTRY CLASS SUBCLASS TRANSLATION . INITIAL NUMBER YES NO OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in

conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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